

Program Description

The study of philosophy deliberately and explicitly aims to improve students' critical thinking skills (e.g., the ability to evaluate various kinds of claims, arguments, and explanations) and disposition (e.g., fair-mindedness, open-mindedness, intellectual humility, patience, persistence, honesty, courage, empathy) while giving them the opportunity to explore and evaluate philosophically the scope and limits of logic, human knowledge, moral and aesthetic values, religions, politics, and notions of reality. Philosophy teaches many intellectual tools that apply across all the disciplines. Though the philosophy program offers few courses, together they offers students a foundation for their life-long pursuit of meaning, purpose, and fulfillment.

Staff

Please dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4 digit extension.

Division:

Nate Dillon, Dean	x.6275
Casey Farris, Administrative Assistant	x.6482
Bettie Negrete, Clerical Assistant III	x.6482
Alberto Mendoza, Department Chair	x.2151

Faculty:

Dr. Claude Gratton	x.6488
Dr. Sherri Xiaoyu Zhu	x.6007

Adjunct Faculty:

Barbara Hogan	V.M. 2389
Alberto Mendoza	2151
Dr. Estiphan Panoussi	2121
Howard Mark Pressman	2303
Mark Pursley	2152
Dr. Edward Sammons	2347

Career Options

Philosophy as an elective is an appropriate element in career preparation for:

Education	Publishing
Government	Scientific Research
Law	Social Work
Management	Teaching
Medicine	All human service careers
Ministry	

(Careers may require education beyond the two-year college level.)

Program Learning Outcomes

Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer

- Students will describe accurately, explain clearly, and evaluate fairly various classical and contemporary philosophical issues, concepts, and theories.
- Students will be able to identify, to interpret, to reconstruct and to evaluate arguments and non-arguments such as explanations from different disciplines and perspectives logically and quantitatively.
- Students will be able to present well-reasoned and clear arguments to support their positions on philosophical issues or social controversies theoretically and factually.

Associate Degree

Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer

The Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer (AA-T in Philosophy) degree offers students a fundamental understanding of the main fields of Philosophy, including logic, ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, social and political philosophy, aesthetics, and philosophy of religion. While being exposed to a wide spectrum of major philosophical theories, students have the opportunity to discuss how philosophical issues and problems are related to their personal lives, clarifying their own values and developing their reasoning capabilities.

The Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer (AA-T in Philosophy) degree meets the requirements of SB 1440 for Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT). These degrees are intended to make it easier for students to transfer to California State University campuses, but do not exclude admittance to other colleges or universities.

To earn an Associate in Arts in Philosophy for Transfer (AA-T in Philosophy) degree a student must complete the following:

- Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
 - The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education – Breadth Requirements.
 - A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.
- Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

ADTs also require that students must earn a C or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis. A “P” (Pass) grade is also an acceptable grade for courses in the major if the course is taken on a Pass/No Pass basis.

Required Courses (6 units):

	units
Select 6 units from the following:	
PHIL 110, Introduction to Logic	3
PHIL 106, Introduction to Philosophy or	
sPHIL 105, Ethics: Moral Issues in Contemporary Society	3

Required Electives A

	units
Select 3 units from any course in the Required Courses not already used or the following:	
PHIL 201, Critical Thinking	3

Required Electives B

	units
Select 6 units from any course in Required Electives A not already used and the following:	
PHIL 108, Philosophy of Religion	3
HIST 101, Western Civilization, From Human Beginnings	
Until 1750	3
HIST 102, Western Civilization, 1750-Present	3

Required Electives C**units**

Select 3 units from any course in Required Electives A and B not already used or the following:

PHIL 109, World Religions	3
ENGL 230, World Literature 1	3
ENGL 231, World Literature 2	3

Some courses required for the major may also satisfy general education requirements. Consult with a counselor for additional information.

Except in cases of prerequisite requirement, it is not required that courses be taken in exactly this sequence; they are recommended in this order to facilitate success.

Recommended Pathway

Fall, First Semester	units
CSU GE A1	3
CSU GE A2	3
CSU GE B4	4
CSU GE C1	3
CSU GE E	3
Total 16	

Spring, Second Semester

PHIL 105, Ethics: Moral Issues in Contemporary Society <i>or</i> PHIL 106, Introduction to Philosophy (CSU GE C2)	3
Required Elective B (CSU GE C1/C2)	3
CSU GE B1/B3	4
CSU GE B2 (add B3 if needed)	3
CSU Transferable Electives	1
Total 14	

Fall, Third Semester

PHIL 110, Introduction to Logic (CSU GE A3)	3
Required Elective A	3
CSU GE D	3
CSU Transferable Electives	3
CSU Transferable Electives	3
Total 15	

Spring, Fourth Semester

Required Elective B	3
Required Elective C	3
CSU GE F	3
CSU GE D	3
CSU Transferable Electives	3
Total 15	

Degree Total 60

**Electives should be taken from other courses within the discipline.*

Note: *If you are following an IGETC GE pattern, please see a counselor.*

Transfer

Students planning to continue studies at a four-year college or university after AVC should visit the Transfer Resource Center and consult with a counselor as soon as possible. Additional information on official transfer articulation agreements from AVC to many CSU/UC campuses can be found at www.assist.org

Prerequisite Completion

All prerequisite courses must be completed with a satisfactory grade in order to enroll in the next course. According to Title 5, Section 55200(d), a satisfactory grade is a grade of "A," "B," "C" or "P". Classes in which the Pass/No Pass option is available are indicated with an asterisk (*) before the course title. See "Pass/No Pass Option" in the catalog for full explanation.

Philosophy Courses**PHIL 101 *FUNDAMENTAL REASONING SKILLS***3 units**3 hours weekly*

The central goals of this course are to help students develop and improve interpretive and evaluative skills that will help them to become more competent and independent thinkers in their personal, academic, social, and professional lives, and in their life-long learning. Various aspects of language, logic, and reasoning will be studied in order to evaluate correctly concepts, claims, arguments, and explanations from a variety of contexts and disciplines. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 105 ETHICS: MORAL ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY*3 units**3 hours weekly*

An introduction into the nature of ethics and to the question as to what ethical system, if any determines right and wrong. This course will not only examine certain traditional approaches to ethical questions, but will investigate the possible application of these approaches to current ethical conflicts. An analysis of moral issues, such as violence, sex, war, abortion, capital punishment, privacy, oppression, pornography, and euthanasia will be emphasized. (C-ID: PHIL 120) (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 106 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY*3 units**3 hours weekly*

An introductory examination of themes and issues central to both classical and contemporary philosophy. Topics will be selected from such areas as ethics, politics, metaphysics, epistemology, religion and logic. (C-ID: PHIL 100) (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 108 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION*3 units**3 hours weekly*

This course emphasizes the philosophical analysis of religious issues and themes. Such themes as the nature and variety of religious expression will be explored, analyzed, and evaluated. The philosophical task revolves around the effort to determine whether there is a special kind of knowledge to be called "Religious"; if so, how is it gained; if it is gained, what its implications will be for human conduct. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 109 WORLD RELIGIONS

3 units

3 hours weekly

In this course students will examine the central beliefs, rituals, traditions, and the philosophical foundations of the major world religions, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism by studying their primary sacred texts. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 110 INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

3 units

3 hours weekly

An introduction to both formal and informal logic. Logic includes a study of linguistic analysis, immediate and mediate inference, symbolic notation, deductive proofs and fallacies. Attention is given to both traditional and modern symbolic systems. Critical thinking is applied to both symbolic and written arguments. Argumentative writing will be explored through both formal and informal logical analysis. (C-ID: PHIL 110) (CSU, UC, AVC)

PHIL 201 CRITICAL THINKING

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: *Completion of ENGL 101.*

An introduction to the logical analysis and critical evaluation of arguments and the basic strategies of rhetoric. Different forms of writing are distinguished and examined. A strong emphasis is on formal instruction in argumentative writing that utilizes the critical thinking skills developed in the course. (CSU, UC, AVC)